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Sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4

International Day of Forests

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Forests, 2011,

Noting the useful contribution of national, regional and international actions during the International Year to raising awareness at all levels in order to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and trees outside forests for the benefit of current and future generations,

Considering that there is currently no globally recognized date for commemorating, carrying out activities on and raising awareness of forests and sustainable forest management beyond the Year,

Recognizing the many existing regional, national and subnational days and international events across the globe that celebrate and honour all types of forests and trees outside forests,

Noting the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-seventh session,[1] and recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/250 of 27 July 2011,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on the proclamation of international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006,

Noting that the States members of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations supported the establishment of the World Forestry Day on

[1] See *Report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Thirty-seventh Session, Rome, 25 June-2 July 2011* (C 2011/REP).

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21 March of each year at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 1971,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 21 March of each year the International Day of Forests, to be observed starting in 2013, in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests;

2. *Invites* all Member States to devote the International Day, as appropriate in the national context, to presenting and promoting concrete activities with regard to all types of forests and trees outside forests;

3. *Encourages* all Member States to organize activities related to all types of forests and trees outside forests, such as tree planting campaigns, at the time most appropriate to each State;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups, stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions for this specific purpose, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, a focused and concise report on activities resulting from the implementation of the present resolution, which elaborates, inter alia, on the evaluation of the International Day of Forests.